

**THEMATIC CONSULTATION ON STANDARDISATION OF THE STATE FUNDING TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN
NORTH MACEDONIA:
EXPLORING MODELS, CHALLENGES, SOLUTIONS AND LEGAL REGULATION**

Date: 18 December 2025

Time: 11:00 – 14.30

Venue: Hotel Panoramika, Skopje

Format: Hybrid event – participants may attend in person or join online

Background

The [Law on Association and Foundation \(LAF\)](#) from 2010 (last time amended in 2016) serves as the main legal basis for allocating public funds to civil society organisations (CSOs).

No specific bylaw has been mandated to regulate these processes in detail yet. The 2007 [Code for Good Practices on State Funding](#) is a form of soft law (not an obligatory bylaw *stricto sensu*) whose content can be partly used in the absence of binding legal norm practice and also when considering legislative reform.

The process of amending the LAF was initiated during the 2022–2024 period under the previous government but was not completed. On June 25, 2025, the Ministry of Justice formed a new Working Group to continue the amendments, building on the draft proposals produced in the previous phase, with completion expected by the end of 2025.”

One of the most challenging aspects in both the previous and current drafting processes concerns the type, scope, and method of state funding for civil society programmes and activities.

In this regard, the EU funded *Technical Assistance for enabling environment to civil society* (<https://eu4cr.mk/>) is providing expert support to the LAF Working Group. The expert team provide support in analysing proposals submitted by WG’s members, identifying potential weak points, proposing possible solutions, and providing insights based on relevant comparative experiences.

This thematic consultation aims to bring together key stakeholders in the country, including civil society organisations, relevant public institutions, and representatives from the LAF Working Group and the Council for Cooperation between Government and Civil Society, to discuss the current practice with allocating the state funding to CSOs in the Republic of North Macedonia. It also seeks to identify models and concrete legal solutions for transparent and accountable state funding to CSOs, drawing on the past and current experiences of North Macedonia’s civil society and public authorities, as well as good international practices.



The consultation on state funding to civil society comes at the right moment, in line with the findings of the recently published 2025 [Country Report for North Macedonia](#), which highlights the timely implementation of the [Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society](#)'s key measures, including the standardisation of state funding and the establishment of a guarantee fund for co-financing EU projects.

Objectives

1. To identify potential good practices of state funding to CSOs in North Macedonia, that may be widespread and standardised through amendments to the LAF and adopting a binding by-law.
2. To identify most typical weak practices in implementation of state funding calls for supporting civil society work, to ensure that these shortcomings are properly addressed in the process of legislative amendments and/or by-law adopted on the basis of LAF.

Key discussion points & questions

- What are key challenges of public authorities and CSOs when it comes to the planning of budget support to CSOs?
- Which good and problematic practices in relation to the state funding to CSOs exist when it comes to the planning of budget support to CSOs (e.g. timeframe, amount, consulting and selecting priorities and objectives of support)?
- Which good and problematic practices are most frequently observed when it comes to the procedure applied by the competent public authorities (e.g. setting of deadlines, criteria for selection, conflict of interest prevention, qualification of persons involved in decision-making, elaboration of decisions)?
- Which good and problematic practices are most frequently observed when it comes to project implementation by the awarded CSOs and oversight conducted by the competent public authorities?
- Since the Government plans to provide co-financing support to CSOs receiving funds for EU – awarded projects, what challenges it may raise for other types of state funding to CSOs and how to overcome them?
- In which way should the reform of the system of state financing of CSOs be linked to other legislative changes (e.g. sectoral budget support legislation, tax incentives, accounting).

Format

Moderated roundtable discussion combining expert input and open exchange. The agenda of the event is as follows:

10:45 – 11:00	Arrival and registration
11:00 – 11:15	Introductory remarks and presentation of the consultation goals
11:15 – 11:30	Presentation of the current situation and key challenges
11:30 – 12:30	Moderated discussion



12:30 – 12:45	Coffee break
12:45 – 13:45	Moderated discussion
13:45 – 14:00	Conclusions and next steps – key messages for legal amendments
14:00 – 14:30	Light refreshments

Output/Deliverable

- Report from the event identifying feasible regulatory options and priorities in the area of standardisation of the state funding and support of activities implemented by CSOs

Proposed Participants

- Representatives of CSO platforms, including, but not limited to, members of the LAF Working Group
- Other CSOs (based on their application)
- Representatives of relevant state institutions (e.g. Ministry of Justice, General Secretariat, Ministry of Finance, the Council for Cooperation between Government and CSOs)
- Members of the LAF Working Group

Working Language

The working languages will be Macedonian and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Participants may join the event in person or online, as the meeting will be organised in a hybrid format. The online participation link will be shared after attendance is confirmed at the following emails: damceska@cpmconsulting.eu and stefanovic@cpmconsulting.eu.

